

ṡmṡ dídarā	'a good child'
ṡmṡ kúkúró	'a short child'
ṡmṡ gígún	'a tall child'

UNIT 7

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'He got a pair of shoes'

A

gbà

get, receive,
accept

ó gbā bàtà kān

Ó gba bàtà kan.

He got a pair of shoes.

B

tānī

who?

tānī

Tanī?

Who?

A

òjǒ

Ojo (proper name)

òjǒ

Òjo.

Ojo.

B

mō gbà kān

Mo gba ọkan.

I got one, (i.e. a
pair)

A

ṡ'ō gbā bàtà 'rē

ṡe o gba bàtà rē?

Did you get your shoes?

B

mō gbā bàtà láárô

Mo gba bàtà ni ǎrô.

I got shoes this
morning.

B. NOTES.

1. Third singular subject pronoun, ó

Compare these sentences:

ó gbā bàtà kǎn 'he got a pair of shoes'

ō gbā bàtà kǎn 'you got a pair of shoes'

The element which stands for third person singular subject is ó. Notice that this differs only in its tone from the element which stands for second person singular subject. It corresponds to English 'he, she, it'.

2. Low verbs have mid tone before objects that begin with consonants.

Notice the tone of the verb stem in the above sentences. Verbs with low 'basic' tone have mid tone before noun objects that begin with a consonant.

3. sé assimilated to second singular, but elided with third singular.

Compare the following phrases:

şó rā bàtà 'did he buy shoes'

ş'ō rā bàtà 'did you buy shoes?'

In casual style, the question particle sé is assimilated in vowel quality to the second person singular subject element ō, but its length and tone remain. With the third person singular element ó, however, the same sé undergoes elision, and its quality, length and tone are all lost.

4. The 'X' tone: High Low Low becomes High High Low.

Compare the tones of these two phrases:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| a. | ótâ (̄ \) | 'he sold' |
| b. | ó t̄ā filà (̄ - _ _) | 'he sold a hat' |
| c. | ó t̄ā èwù (̄ - _ _) | 'he sold a shirt' |
| d. | ó t̄èwù (̄̄ _) or (̄ _ _) or
(̄ \ _) | 'he sold a shirt' |
| e. | ō t̄èwù (- _ _) | 'you sold a shirt' |

In Line (d), we might expect the tonal sequences '̄̄̄ (̄ _ _) or '̄̄̄ (̄ \ _). Instead, for some speakers we have '̄̄̄ (̄̄ _). In general, we will find that where the 'basic' tones are '̄̄̄...', the actual tones used are '̄̄̄'. The special tonal symbol * will be used to represent this range of interdialectal variation.

0. Exercises.

1. Elision of sé and ó.

bàtâ	'shoe'	şó rā bàtâ	şé ó rā bàtâ
filà	'hat'	şó rā filà	şé ó rā filà
şòkòtò	'trousers'	şó rā şòkòtò	şé ó rā şòkòtò

2. rà	'buy'	şó rā bàtâ	şé ó rā bàtâ
tà	'sell'	şó t̄ā bàtâ	şé ó t̄ā bàtâ
gbà	'get'	şó gbā bàtâ	şé ó gbā bàtâ

3. Substitution of verbs and noun objects, casual style.

Substitute the words in the left-hand column, in the order
in which they are given.

↓	ó rā bàtà	'he bought shoes'
tà	ó tǎ bàtà	'he sold shoes'
gbà	ó gbā bàtà	'he got shoes'
filà	ó gbā filà	'he got a hat'
òkě	ó gbòkě	'he got a large bag'
iwě	ó gbâwě	'he got a book'
tà	ó tâwě	'he sold a book'
èwù	ó tẹ̀wù	'he sold a garment'
òkọ̀	ó tọ̀kọ̀	'he sold a spear'
ìlù	ó tǎlù	'he sold a drum'
rà	ó rǎlù	'he bought a drum'
òbẹ̀	ó rọ̀bẹ̀	'he bought a knife'
ìbọ̀n	ó rábọ̀n	'he bought a gun'

4. This is an exercise in differentiating between second and third person singular subjects. Practice giving the second member of each pair of expressions in response to the first.

ó rā bàtà	ó rā bàtà
ō rā bàtà	mō rā bàtà
ó rāwě	ó rāwě
ō rāwě	mō rāwě
ó gbāwě	ó gbāwě
ō gbāwě	mō gbāwě

ó gbẹ̀wù	ó gbẹ̀wù
ō gbẹ̀wù	mō gbẹ̀wù

D. Supplementary material: Some additional modifiers of nouns.

<u>Verb</u>		<u>Adjective</u>
tūntūn	'new'	tītūn
tóbī	'big'	títóbī
gbó	'old'	gbígbo
wọ̀n	'dear, expensive'	wíwọ̀n
dínwó	'cheap'	dídínwó
	dín	'to make smaller'
	ōwó	'money'

1.

mō gbàwě kàn mō gbā iwě kàn I received one book.

tūntūn	şó tūntūn	şé tītūn nī	şéyítótūntūnnī
tóbī	şó tóbī	şé títóbī nī	şéyítótóbīnī
gbó	şó gbó	(şé gbígbo nī)	şéyítógbónī
wọ̀n	şó wọ̀n	şé wíwọ̀n nī	şéyítówọ̀nnī
dínwó	şó dínwó	şé dídínwó nī	şéyítódínwónī

The forms in the first column are verbs. Those in the second column are questions containing those verbs, with the third singular subject pronoun ó. The third column contains adjectives derived from the corresponding verbs, according to the following formula:

Verb C₁V₁...

Adjective C₁iC₁V₁...

The items in Column 4 in effect contain relative clauses. The relative particle tí is elided with the third singular subject pronoun ó, which is followed by the adjective plus ní.

2. Verb plus C,í functioning as a noun modifier.

wọn	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ wọn	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó wọn
dínwó	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ dínwó	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó dínwó
tóbí	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ tóbí	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó tóbí
tūntūn	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ tūntūn	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó tūntūn

3. ↓	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ tūntūn	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó tūntūn
tóbí	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ tóbí	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó tóbí
bàtà	ā rābàtà tǒ tóbí	ā rā bàtà tí ó tóbí
wọn	ā rābàtà tǒ wọn	ā rā bàtà tí ó wọn
ọ̀kọ̀	ā rọ̀kọ̀ tǒ wọn	ā rā ọ̀kọ̀ tí ó wọn
dínwó	ā rọ̀kọ̀ tǒ dínwó	ā rā ọ̀kọ̀ tí ó dínwó
ìbọ̀n	ā ràbọ̀n tó dínwó	ā rā ìbọ̀n tí ó dínwó
tūntūn	ā ràbọ̀n tó tūntūn	ā rā ìbọ̀n tí ó tūntūn
ẹ̀wù	ā rẹ̀wù tǒ tūntūn	ā rā ẹ̀wù tí ó tūntūn

UNIT 8

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'What did Ojo buy?'

A

kílôjǒ rā

Kíní Ọ̀jọ̀ rà?

What did Ojo buy?

B

ọ̀kọ̀

hoe, spade

ó rọ̀kọ̀

O ra ọ̀kọ̀.

He bought a hoe.